

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	<b>Applicant No.</b> 10/614,226 <b>Examiner</b> Frantz F. Jules	<b>Applicant(s)</b> PASSAROTTO, MAURIZIO <b>Art Unit</b> 3617
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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1.  This communication is responsive to 05/18/2004.
2.  The allowed claim(s) is/are 21-31, 33-47 and 49.
3.  The drawings filed on 07 July 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a)  All
  - b)  Some\*
  - c)  None
  1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5.  A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6.  CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a)  including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
    - 1)  hereto or 2)  to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b)  including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7.  DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

#### Attachment(s)

1.  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2.  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3.  Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4.  Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5.  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6.  Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
7.  Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8.  Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9.  Other \_\_\_\_\_.

**REASON FOR ALLOWANCE**

1. Luscher et al, and Chen disclose a bicycle wheel rim, comprising an inner radial wall having a first through hole, an outer radial wall having a second through hole aligned with the first through hole; side walls connecting the inner and outer radial walls together, and a removable tubular element located through the first and second through holes, the removable tubular element further comprising a tubular body having first and second ends; an outwardly extending flange located on the first end which abuts the outer radial wall proximate to the second through hole; a valve connection compatible with a valve body for a bicycle tire; a removable locking mechanism adapted to engage the removable tubular element and to detachably secure the removable tubular member in position. Mercat discloses a bicycle wheel rim comprising a removable tubular member threadably attached to the inside of the wall of the rim including a spoke attachment threadably attached to the inside of the tubular member. Doring discloses a valve connection for wheels for tubeless bicycle tires comprising a metal sleeve which is presses fitted into the rim. However, none of the references of record suggests a bicycle wheel rim wherein when the removable tubular member is detached from the inner and outer radial walls, the rim can be used with an optional inner tube of the tire in the manner defined in the instant claims 21, 33, 41 and in combination with other limitations of the claims. Also none of the references of record suggests a bicycle wheel rim wherein a weld is used to retain the first end of the tubular body in the manner defined in the instant claim 49 and in combination with other limitations of the claim.

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Therefore, claims 22-31, 34-40, 42-47, depending therefrom are considered to be allowable.

***Conclusion***

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Frantz F. Jules whose telephone number is (703) 308-8780. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday and every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph S. Morano can be reached on (703) 308-0230. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

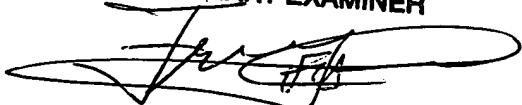
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Frantz F. Jules  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3617

FFJ

June 7, 2004

FRANTZ F. JULES  
PRIMARY EXAMINER



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